

Today: Who were they?
 Why convicted?
 Where did they come from?
 What sort of 'men' were they?

Next time: The convict ships.
 The convict system.
 What happened to them in
 /Australia?
 When (why) did transp'n stop?

Prelim. - i.e. before 1788

- (a) American colonies: Maryland & Virginia:
 30,000 fm. U.K. (Eng., Scot., Wales).
- (b) Solitary ship to Newfoundland (art. by Jed Martin in Acadiensis (US), 1975/6)
 c. 65 Irishmen fm. DUBLIN in 1789 - i.e. bet. 1st & 2nd Fleets to Sydney.
 Many returned to Dublin; some sent on to BOTANY BAY.

1 Basic Facts of Transportation to Australia (L. Robson)

Nearly 162,000 men & women trans. 1788-1868: 85% men; 15% women.
 A little over 2/3 from Eng., Scot., Wales;
 A little under 1/3 Irish; and 154 Canadian rebels of 1838.
 Spread over 4 Austr. colonies:
 85,000 to NSW; 67,000 to V.D.L.; 9,600 to W.A. and a few 100 as exiles
 to VICTORIA in 1840s. i.e. Overwhelming % of po. of NSW up to 1820;
 far higher in Tas. in 1850s. Still today?

*Who? mainly
 working men*

More facts: (per ROBSON) av. age=26; 3 in 4 were single.
 Height: 5'4"-5'5". Tattoo marks.
 Prots 2 in 3 (UK, Anglo-canada);
 R.C.s 1 in 3: Ireland, Fr. Canadiana (Quebec).

How do we KNOW all this?

Largely from (a) Registers in HO 11; and (2)
 Indents on arrival in Sydney;
 and Conduct Registers at Hobart.

2. Why ere they transported?

8 out of 10 for Larceny (Robson, p. 9 & Tables).

Other for a large variety, incl. Burglary; Robbery; Perjury; Rape;
 Vagrancy; Murder; Perjury; Forgery; Arson (=setting fire ...);
 Poaching; Bigamy; Sheepstealing or 'maiming'; *ditto horses*
 Destruction of Property; and Riot. But many more.

But 2 Problems here:

- 1) How do we tell? O.K. ~~up to 1822~~ ^{after 1826} (with some exceptions): Indents say.
 Before that: we need 'substitutes':
 Criminal Register; OB Proceedings in M's'x.
 Scot. Courts of Judiciary; Dublin Castle for
 Rebellions (Trans. records burnt in 1922).

- 2) Penal Code kept changing: 1829; 1840s.
 Effect on Transp'n: Former capital crimes ('felonies') become
 transportable; so great upsurge of SHEEPSTEALERS in
 1830s and ARSONISTS in 1840s-1850s.

3. Where did they come from - or WHERE convicted?

IN UK (inc. Scotland): 19th Century a great age of Indust'n and Urbanisation:
 This directly reflected in large numbers convicted in large cities
 & ~~some of the~~ industrial ~~centres~~ counties & towns:

CF. ROBSON's Top Six:

Mid. (London): 17%	Warwick (B8rum) 3%.
Lancs 7%	Surrey (part of London): 2 1/2%.
DUBLIN 5%	
Yorks 4%	

4. What Sort of Men were they?

Gathering opinions:

1) Contemporaries:

'Depraved' and 'desperate' beyond 'redemption' [Marsden's hostility to 'Emancipists']

2) 'Optimism' of early 20th cent.

G.A. Wood on 'Convicts' in address to R. Aust. Hist. Soc., 1922; 'better than their judges'.

HAMMONDS in 1911: 'The Village Hampdens of that generation sleep by the

3) Since 1950s / shores of Botany Bay.'

Clark in 1950s;

Shaw in 1953;

and Robson in 1965:

New picture of typical convict: from U.K.

~~Urban~~ Young urban thief, with $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ of them with prev. offences.

Ireland the exception:

Leaving aside Dublin & Cork (Belfast counted for little then):

A rural type; older & more married; often a rebel in prolonged 'land-war'; and with far fewer prev. convictions.

5. Another Group fits the Irish pattern far more closely than the British.

These are the PROTESTERS. *[This my special interest]*

1) What is a Protester?

To some all Protest = Crime; to others all Crime = Protest.

More discrimination required; but how distinguish?

2 problems arise: (1) Definition; and (2) Telling which is which from the records.

(1) Definition: what is a 'protest' crime?

Easy enough in some cases: Riot. Sedition. M/Breaking. T.Unionism.

But not so easy in (other) marginal cases:

Arson. Poaching. Sheep-maiming or killing. Assault.

It all depends what lies behind it: Is it to make more money or settle a private score? OR is it part of a collective Protest movement? e.g. Ireland in 1798 or England in 1830? or to assert the Englishman's Freedom of the land, the river, the forest?

A tricky problem on which no 2 scholars will agree.

(2) Inadequate documentation

After 1825 - OK.
before 1825 - v. dodgy
(Crusades) 5/17/99

2) The NUMBERS: English-Scots; just under 1,200;

Irish: about 2,200;

Canadians (French & 'Anglos': 154

[i.e. many more Irish]

= c. 3,600 Or
c. 2 1/2% *(Only 120 women)*

3) What were they involved in?

(a) The Brits: Scot. Jac'ns; Pentridge & Cato Street; Luddism;

Scot. radicals 1820; 1830; Tolpuddle; Bossenden Wood.

Chartists (100); and 200 arsonists & 75 poachers (selected).

(b) The Irish: Defenders & Rebellion of 1798 (c. 400 in all); Land war of 1815-50; Young Ireland (1848); Fenians (62) on last

(c) Canadians: Rebellion convict ~~xxx~~ ship of all - the HOUGOMONT - to Perth in Jan. 1868. /

4) Location of Protest: (not same as for common criminal):

In Britain: Rural up to 1840s; then industrial from indus. North (not from London). *(cf. generality of convicts)*

In Ireland: Rural throughout - with minor exceptions in 1848, 1867.

Canada in 1837-8: Ditto.

Intro. Last time: Who? Why? Where? What sort?

And PROTESTERS as diff. What involved in?

32 kinds of protest: Political, e.g.

Social; and 'marginal', e.g. Arson, Poach, 'maiming'

I ended by asking what sort of treatment did they get on arrival?

Today: The Voyage; The convict system; What happened to them in Aust.?

1. The Convict Ships (see Ch. Bateson; also Sawh, pp. 107-126), Dublin/COBH.

About 640 (why 'about?'). Sailed from London; Spithead (portsmouth) /.

Speed, varying with ~~size~~ weather (storm or calm), sail or steam; and Route:

Long route: via RIO & tip pf S. Am (Com Chichester) 6 mos +
usual shorter route via Cape: 4-4½ decreasing to little
over 3 for last ship to Hobart in 1852.

Shortest of all: London or Dublin direct to W.A. Last 32 ships took av.
88-99 days (Houg. '83).

Clothing:

Before sailing, men & women issued with sailing suits. Early complaints.

Conditions on board. Quarters below-decks gen. squalid; in Tropics!

Bunks: 4 to a berth 6ft square (since 1790).

Rations, based on Navy: each mess' of 6 receiving weekly
20 lbs bread; 12 lbs flour; 16 lbs beef, 6 lbs pork;
1 pints pease; 2 lbs rice; 1½ lbs butter; 1½ lbs suet;
3 lbs raisins; & 6 lbs oatmeal.

Later, SUGAR added, + vinegar & lime-juice (imp.)

Daily exercise; but refused if punished; Other punishments:
Flogging (men), often brutal; executions for mutiny:
12 on Chapman 17 1817; Sheeney U.I. in 1801
/ (Anne)

HAZARDS: Storms; Disease; Mutiny...

1833 Amphitrite ne Boul. in gale; loss 106 women.

1835: ^{George III} fire destroyed food; in Channel nr Hob. hit
rock; 127 males drowned.

Same yr: Neva: 138 women drowned; 6 more later.

1842: Waterloo: 143 males drowned.

Disease: & mortality: 1 id 9 pre-1800; 1- 24 1801-1815;
& 1 in 113 hereafter. (Womwn: 1 in 30, 67, 94).

Mutiny the most dramatic: sometimes involving crw, some-
convicts, sometimes both.

Every convict-novel describes them: M. Clark
(For the Term of his Nat. Life) ~~xxxxx~~ J.B. O'Reilly
in Moondyne ~~xx~~ Houg. to WA in 1867-8.
Reality; Chapman, 1817; 12 convicts shot.

2. The Convict System.

Main idea was to keep prisoners busy on productive labour, useful to early ~~xxx~~
colonies before FREE LABOUR available in any consid. quantities.

Others (like Col. Arthur) attributed a large of the purpose of

'the System' to reformation of character. But, in either case, you WORKED!

3 chief ways of doing so: ^{working the system}

- (a) early improvisation; (b) assignment system roughly 1810-40;
(c) Probation system (in theory at least), 1840-1868, though
by this time had really broken down.

To specify:

1/ Improvisation

On arrival in NSW prisoners put to work for Gov. or ~~known~~ officers. ^(the "free" settlers)

But consid. freedom ~~for many of the early convicts~~; Irishmen of 1798

(~~xx~~'self-exile'; land grants). Greenway, the architect in 1814; and

Cato Street 'as 'politicos') as late as 1820. But these all men of standing

Similarly, improv'n re grants of PARDON by early Govs (cf SHEENEY papers)

2/ Systematisation begins with Gov. ^{Hunter 1810} King; but a grad. process: (S/penions 2)

